

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Index Number: CJUS 320
Course Title: Correctional Process
Professor: Robbin E.L. Washington, Jr.
Phone: (312) 955-2859 - (Home)
Credit Hours: 3.0
Trimester: Fall 1996
Day/Time: Tuesday-Thursday 9:30am-10:45am
Office Hours:

TEXTS: Allen & Simonsen, Corrections in America, 7th Edition,
Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1995.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine research on the social-psychological effects of confinement. We will study the prison as a social system with its own norms and peculiarities and critically analyze the similarities between prisons and other subsystems.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE RATIONALE:

"When a sheriff or marshall takes a man (or woman) from a courthouse in a prison van and transports him to confinement for two or three or ten years, this is our act. We have tolled the bell for him. And whether we like it or not, we have made him our collective responsibility. We are free to do something about him; he is not."

As our society is bombarded with media information regarding the field of corrections, correct and relevant information is needed. Understanding the facts concerning correctional history, processes and concepts, and related issues is vital for students engaged in the criminal justice field.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

Criminal Justice majors/minors and those students who wish to get an understanding of criminal justice from the corrections prospective.



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EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. explain how history has had a direct effect on the development of our existing correctional institutions.
2. explain the effects of judicial decisions upon the components of the correctional process.
3. evaluate the effects of judicial decisions upon the formulation of correctional policy.
4. identify and analyze the steps in the correctional process.
5. explain and analyze the prison subculture and the psychological aspects of confinement.
6. develop a correctional model that would allow us to implement the ABA recommendation "That crime might actually be reduced if everyone currently confined to prison were released immediately."

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Students will spend eight to ten hours as an observer in a correctional agency and will report back to the class the findings of the site visit. Write a 3 to 5 page paper describing the experience and be prepared to discuss your paper in class.
2. Students will review current correctional issues by writing short summaries of two magazine articles. Students will also identify by date, source, and short summary of 15 items from newspapers (September 1996 through due date) which relate to corrections.
3. Students will write a 3 to 5 page paper presenting a creative alternative to existing models of corrections. The plan should allow us to release people currently incarcerated. Clearly define the objectives of your alternative and describe the process to implement your plan.
4. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of some aspect of the correctional system by either individual or group presentation, and be presented in class.
5. Students will successfully pass two exams:
 - a. Mid-Term Examination
 - b. Final Examination

6. Students will be expected to attend the field trips.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = Below 60

All assignments have a top point value of 100 points.
All outside readings and materials are testable.
All assignments must be typewritten.
Student will lose points for non-typed assignments and late assignments.

TOPICAL OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Introduction to Course and Overview
 Chapters 1-4 - History and Evaluation

Week 2 - Chapters 1-4 - History and Evaluation

Week 3 - Chapters 5-8 - Law and The Legal Process

Week 4 - Chapters 16-20 - The Correctional Clients
 Alternative Papers Due

Week 5 - Chapters 9-12 - The Correctional Process

Week 6 - Chapters 13-15 - Rights of The Convicted Offender
 Magazine and Newspapers Due

Week 7 - Chapters and Review for Mid-Term Examination

Week 8 - Mid-Term Examination

Week 9 - Corrections in Illinois/Tour

Week 10 - Corrections in Illinois/Presentations Due

Week 11 - Chapters 21-22 - Correctional Manager's Dilemma/
 Presentations Continued

Week 12 - Chapters 23-26 - Correctional Systems/
 Presentation if Necessary

Week 13 - Chapter 27 - Summary and Overview/Observation Due

Week 14 - Chapters and Review for Final Examination

Week 15 - Final Examination

*Date of assignments may change, but students will be given prior notice.